A key theme for our seminar series this year is ‘Hope for Housing – the rebirth of Community-Led Housing’. Following the announcement of a Community Housing Fund in December 2016, and again in November 2017, we are anticipating an acceleration of activity in the community housing space, with regional hubs already established in Leeds, Bristol and London and exploratory activity in the West Midlands. Community-led housing (internationally described as collaborative housing) has been a key topic for HCRG for a number of years, and we were pleased to be involved in producing a Special Issue of the International Journal of Housing Policy, March 2018 on ‘self-organised and civil society participation in housing’ with academic analysis of developments in ten countries.

Later in the series we are planning a one day research conference on this theme.

**Programme**

3.45 Welcome Tea and Coffee Networking

4.15 Introduction, Professor David Mullins

4.20 Understanding and reconfiguring networks of design decision-making [international examples of collaborative housing] Dr Jasmine Palmer

5.00 Questions and Discussion

5.45 Seminar Closes. Move to Staff House for networking drinks
Housing and Communities Research Network Seminar

Understanding and reconfiguring networks of design decision-making [international examples of collaborative housing]

Dr Jasmine Palmer, University of South Australia, School of Art, Architecture and Design

We are delighted to start our spring series by welcoming Dr Jasmine Palmer, from the University of South Australia who will be exploring the design of collaborative housing projects through the lens of actor network theory.

Built Environment production, habitation and management inevitably involves a complex interaction between heterogeneous entities. Guest researcher Dr Jasmine Palmer will present both past and current research which compares international collaborative housing projects, commencing from an Australian context.

As lecturer in Architecture and Sustainable Design at the University of South Australia, School of Art, Architecture and Design, Dr Palmer’s research is interested in processes of change and disruption, and how design[er]s respond to controversy and failure. With a particular focus on housing, she proposes the employment of an actor-network lens to think relationally about housing provision, asking:

Why do we have the [housing architecture cities] that we do? And, how can we get to the [housing architecture cities] that we want?

Dr Palmer has previously proposed, and is currently refining, an analytical tool which employs visual and metric mapping of actor-networks to understand the heterogeneous networks of design decision-making in the built environment. Importantly, it can provide insights to guide desirable reconfiguring; asking ‘why and how can we most effectively implement change?’

Initial development of the tool has occurred in the specific arena of collaborative housing, and future research seeks to test its applicability across multiple typologies and scales.

Re-shaping the built environment for a more sustainable and equitable urban future is not solely a physical or spatial design challenge, but also a relational one.

All are welcome to this free seminar.

Places may be booked by emailing Helen Harris – h.m.a.harris@bham.ac.uk